EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Upper Saginaw River long-term disposal study was initiated in 1979 under the Authority of Section 123, P.L.91-611. Policy and procedures regarding development, review, approval, and implementation of Dredged Material Management Plans (DMMP) were subsequently established in July 1994. To conform to the new policy, this Phase II Final DMMP Document has been prepared and phases the study into the new procedures. This document will identify specific measures necessary to manage the volume of material likely to be dredged over a 20 - year period.

The Upper Saginaw River is located on the west side of Lake Huron, tributary to Saginaw Bay, approximately 90 miles north of Detroit, Michigan. Currently there is no dredged material placement site for the Upper Saginaw River. Future maintenance dredging is required for navigation to regain maximum efficiency in the Saginaw River.

In 2000, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Saginaw County, Michigan was tasked to provide potential upland sites for evaluation. The DEQ submitted three sites within Bay County for evaluation, of which two were determined to be infeasible. Numerous other alternatives have been investigated to date. These range from new upland dredge material placement sites, and beneficial uses of material dredged material for reuse.

Based upon the investigation presented in the Phase II Dredged Material Management Plan document, development of the Zilwaukee Township Site, West of Saginaw River, to a Dredged Material Disposal Facility is the most economically feasible and environmentally sound solution for dredged material placement and is designated the “Base Plan”. This Base Plan forms the basis for future actions leading toward implementation of a disposal facility to adequately handle maintenance dredging for a minimum of 20 years for Upper Saginaw River.

Please note that any references in this report regarding elevations refer to International Great Lakes Datum (IGLD), 1955. To convert to IGLD 1985, add 0.7 feet.